

Call for 2008 Neighbor of the Year Nominations

Do you know an exemplary neighbor who consistently contributes to and displays commitment to Tempe neighborhoods? We encourage you to take a moment to think about local residents and businesses that strengthen our community through their involvement. The annual Neighbor of the Year Awards is the perfect opportunity to recognize those extra special residents and local business owners who work diligently and often behind the scenes to make our neighborhoods great. The deadline to submit Neighbor of the Year Award nominations is Monday, Feb. 25.

For more detailed information and guidelines or to obtain a nomination form, go to:

www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods or contact the city's Neighborhood Services Division at 480-350-8234 or neighborhoods@tempe.gov.

The Neighbor of the Year Awards will be presented by Mayor and Council at the start of the 2008 Neighborhood Workshop, a free half-day event to be held on Saturday, April 5, at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave., from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Save the date on your calendar and look for additional workshop details in the March issue of Tempe Today.



Tempe recycling program hits 15-year milestone

The city of Tempe's curbside, commingled recycling program has been in full force for 15-years. In February 1993, Tempe implemented the program, and by September 1993, Tempe became the first city to have a citywide curbside recycling program. Since then, with the help and support of our residents, Tempe has collected over 1.8 billion pounds of recyclables!

In celebrating this milestone, the Tempe Solid Waste Services Division would like to remind residents of the importance to recycle only the materials that are on our current "acceptable" list. Below are a few do's and don'ts for the blue barrel recycling program that will help ensure a clean, environment-friendly service:

Do's

- Recycle your glass bottles and jars
- Remove the sticker off of your blue can that says, "Do not recycle glass" (if there is one on it), because glass is recyclable!
- Recycle shredded paper in a clear plastic bag (this is the only time a plastic bag is okay in the recycle bin)

Don'ts

- Place plastic bags or sheet plastic in recycle bin
- Place plastic toys in recycle bin
- Bag your recyclables. This makes it difficult for the workers separating the materials.
- Include any "sharps", needles, or containers with these products in them. These must be secured and disposed of in regular garbage.
- Place any food waste in the recycle bin—all it takes is one trash can with food waste to contaminate an entire truckload of recyclables!

Thank you for your continued support and participation in all of Tempe's recycling programs. It is through community support that these programs are successful. For information on these and other recycling programs, call the Recycling Hotline at 480-350-8145, or visit www.tempe.gov/recycling.



New Orbit Jupiter route launched

In January, the city of Tempe launched a new, FREE

Orbit route called Jupiter, which will serve neighborhoods between Apache Boulevard and the US 60 from Mill Avenue to McClintock Drive.

The Orbit circulator system uses small mini-buses to serve residential areas and connect them to local destinations such as downtown Tempe, Arizona State University, shopping areas, other neighborhoods, major bus and future light rail routes, schools and multi-generational centers. Orbit Jupiter will provide high-frequency shuttle service every 15 minutes, seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tempe currently operates four Orbit routes - Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

Mayor Hugh Hallman stated, "The implementation of the Jupiter route means that additional Tempe residents easily can travel from home to work, schools, community facilities, stores and parks without driving a personal vehicle. The Orbit routes are an integral part of the holistic transit system we are building to create an economically, culturally and environmentally sustainable community."

The Orbit is funded through the 1996 transit tax. For information, call 480-350-2775 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim for maps of the routes.

Tempe offers assistance with roof rats

Tempe offers residents information to assist with roof rat prevention and eradication efforts.

Tempe residents are encouraged to pick up fruit and nuts from the ground, keep garbage containers covered, keep pet waste cleaned from the yard, store bulk foods in sealed, rat-proof containers, keep pet food stored and harvest citrus promptly and completely.

Common signs of roof rat activity include: visual sightings on power lines, trees, bushes, patios, etc.; hollowed out citrus and other fruit; rat droppings; scratching noises in the attic and walls; gnawing sounds and gnaw marks around roof eaves; damage to plastics and coverings on electrical wires; unsettled pets.

The appearance of roof rats is not a sign of neighborhood deterioration. They are spreading incrementally block-by-block throughout the Valley.

Those who suspect that they have roof rats should contact Maricopa County Environmental Services at 602-506-6616, select option #4, "to report a complaint, then press option #2, "to file an environmental complaint." Leave a voicemail with your name, address, telephone number and the location of the sighting. For more information, visit Tempe's Neighborhood Services website at www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods/roofrats.htm or call the office at 480-350-8234.

Public meeting for input on use of funds for housing programs

Tempe is conducting a public meeting to gather comments and input on how funds may be used in city housing programs, in preparation of the 2008-2009 Annual Action Plan component of the Consolidated Plan. The 2008-2009 Annual Action Plan is the one-year plan that is prepared to show the use of two federal grant programs: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain comments and input from residents on how funds the city may receive from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development in fiscal year 2008-2009 might be used, as well as the needs in Tempe. Examples of ongoing city programs include affordable housing activities, lead-based paint testing and abatement, property acquisition and disposition, public services, property clearance and demolition, public facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, historic preservation, neighborhood facilities, economic development activities, relocation assistance and planning and administration.

For more information on the city's CDBG Annual Action Plan and the Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2005-2009 contact Tempe's Community Development Housing Services Division at 480-350-8950, TDD 480-350-8913, or visit www.tempe.gov/housing.

Written comments may be submitted to: City of Tempe Housing Services Division, P.O. Box 5002, Tempe, AZ 85280 or via e-mail to liz_chavez@tempe.gov. All written comments received prior to the public hearing will be forwarded to City Council.

Tax prep program helps families

Free tax preparation is available for qualified individuals and couples every Saturday through April 12 (except March 15) from 9 a.m. to noon at Tempe Schools Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. Trained volunteer tax preparers certified by the IRS will provide free tax preparation and electronic filing for individuals earning \$35,000 or less per year and couples making \$55,000 or less per year. Spanish translators will be available. For more information and a list of documents to bring with you, visit www.tempe.gov/tcc/taxhelp/default.htm.

Boards and Commissions

Did you know that Tempe has 31 official Boards and Commissions that advise the City Council and make decisions on everything from high-rise residential developments to the city's only cemetery? They are established by city ordinance to fulfill specific roles. These groups can only function if they have enough qualified, engaged Tempe residents who want to serve their community. The city is always looking to fill vacancies on city Boards and Commissions, so visit www.tempe.gov/clerk/boards&commissions.htm to apply. Boards and commissions with current vacancies include the Tempe Aviation Commission, the Building Code Advisory Board of Appeals, the Neighborhood Advisory Commission and more.

Golf Advisory Committee

The Golf Advisory Committee advises the City Council and assists the City Manager in the establishment of policies, rules and regulations related to the planning, use, care and maintenance of golf facilities in the municipal golf courses, and establishes priorities at budget time for those items other than administrative functions relating to golf, which recommendations are forwarded to the City Council.

The Golf Advisory Committee is composed of nine members with three-year terms. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every other month, at 7 a.m., at various locations including Ken McDonald Golf Course, the Tempe Library Board Room, and Rolling Hills Golf Course. For more information on the Golf Advisory Committee, contact the Committee's staff liaison at 480-350-5234.

Historical Museum Advisory Board

The Historical Museum Advisory Board assists and advises the City Council, along with the Community Services Manager and the Historic Preservation Commission, in the establishment policies, rules and regulations relating to the areas and structures for use as historical museums or interpretive sites and for the use of historical materials and artifacts, in the development of a continuing plan for the City's historical museum program, and in the acceptance of gifts or bequests of property in the name of the City for historical museum purposes.

The Historical Museum Advisory Board consists of nine members with three-year terms. Meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the Tempe Historical Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue. For more information on the Historical Museum Advisory Board, contact the Board's staff liaison at 480-350-5105.

Tempe Firefighters Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board

The purpose of the Board is to administer the Tempe Firefighters Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. The Board decides questions of eligibility and service credits, distributes information explaining and reporting on the retirement system to interested members, and appoints a medical board to determine employee physical fitness.

The Tempe Firefighters Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board has five members consisting of the Mayor (as chairman), two members elected from the Tempe Fire Department, and two residents of Tempe. One of the resident members is the Chairman of the Merit System Board. The two appointed residents also serve on the Tempe Police Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board. The resident members of the Tempe Firefighters Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council for a four-year term. For more information on the Tempe Firefighters Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board, contact the Board's staff liaison at 480-350-8007.



Tempe Bakery/ Hackett House

The Tempe Bakery, at 401-405 S. Maple Avenue in downtown Tempe, was built by William Hilge in 1888. The two adjoining buildings included a bakery, a shop, and an upstairs residence. In 1907, Edward and Mary Craig moved into the Tempe Bakery and converted it into a home. Their daughter, Estelle, married Roy Hackett, and they moved into the house in the 1920s. Roy died in 1959, but Estelle continued to live in the house up until the 1970s. By then, the Hackett House was a deteriorating relic in the midst of a changing downtown area.

The Tempe Centennial in 1971 and the American Bicentennial in 1976 inspired renewed pride in the community's history and landmarks. In 1974, the city bought the property from Estelle Hackett for a Neighborhood Redevelopment Project. The Hackett House, the oldest fired red brick building in Tempe, was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Plans were made to restore the buildings to their 1912 appearance. This became an American Bicentennial project for the city and the Tempe Historical Society. A "Buy a Brick" campaign was started to raise money to match an \$18,000 federal grant.

After more than ten years of planning and restoration work, the Tempe Bakery/Hackett House was opened to the public in 1986. The buildings became the headquarters for the Tempe Sister City Corporation, a local organization that actively promotes international goodwill.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The February/March schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

February 7, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

February 21, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

March 6, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

March 20, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or on the Web site at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman, Mayor

Hut Hutson, Vice Mayor

P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember

Barbara J. Carter, Councilmember

Shana Ellis, Councilmember

Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember

Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Charlie Meyer, City Manager

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To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

City of Tempe
31 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281
www.tempe.gov

News you can use

Tempe Fire using new automated medical recording system

The Tempe Fire Department began using a new documentation system in October 2007. This Electronic Patient Care Report (EPCR) system is designed to make it much easier for firefighters to document medical and trauma encounters. Instead of carrying a clipboard to a call, firefighters now carry a laptop computer with the EPCR system installed. This tool gives the firefighter the power and intelligence to ensure easy, accurate, efficient data entry in addition to analysis and reporting of patient care information. With this system we have been able to generate clear, legible reports that Tempe Fire can count on to be accurate because the data is entered into the system at the patient's side. With the EPCR's built in databases, firefighters and administrators have quick, accurate access to the most up to date medical protocols, potential of drug interactions and other valuable information, improving patient care for Tempe residents.

31st Spring Tempe Festival of the Arts

Peruse through more than 350 artists original pieces at the 31st Spring Tempe Festival of the Arts, March 28-30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, in a street-festival atmosphere. The variety of original art ranges from woodwork to ceramics, from photography to wearable art, from painting to jewelry.

Enjoy street performances and live music, sample Arizona wines, and eat festival fare and homemade goods. Children can create and explore art at the Kids Innovation Station. For more information, visit www.tempefestivalofthearts.com.

Reading Ahoy! program for pre-schoolers at Tempe Public Library

Starting February 4, children ages 3-7 are invited to become pirates and search for treasure with the "Reading Ahoy!" treasure map at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. Treasure maps are available at the Youth Desk until March 31, and children will receive a special treasure when they complete the game. Four new library cards with a pirate theme will also be available.

Watch That Train

Light rail construction in Tempe is just about wrapped up, and soon we'll see trains running across the Tempe Town Lake bridge and into downtown Tempe. Starting in March, METRO will expand light rail vehicle testing into downtown Tempe. Drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists need to be aware and follow safety guidelines, including:

- Obey traffic signals.
- Cross only at crosswalks and obey the signals.
- Expect a train at any time, from either direction.
- Light rail is extremely quiet. At intersections, listen for train bells and look for the train's flashing headlights.
- Never stop your car on the tracks, and never walk, skateboard or bicycle in the track area.

Parents should hold the hands of small children when near light rail tracks.

During the testing period, METRO train operators will always sound bells and flash headlights when approaching and passing through intersections. METRO will work with Tempe Police to ensure that drivers and pedestrians are aware of the testing. For more information on METRO and light rail safety, visit www.MetroLightRail.org/safety, or call the Tempe's Light Rail Office at 480-350-8487.

Volunteers needed for Tempe early literacy program

Put your experience, time and patience to use by teaching a child to read. The City of Tempe is a site for Experience Corps, a national program that engages adults 55 and older in efforts to improve early childhood literacy. The Tempe program is looking for volunteers for fall 2008 who want to make a difference in children's lives.

Tempe volunteers will provide one-on-one tutoring to struggling students in kindergarten through third grade. Volunteers do not need special skills; training and support services will be provided. Time commitments can be arranged and those 55 and older can receive a monthly stipend. For more information please call Kim Caliber at 480-695- 5108, or Peggy Goldberg at 480-858-2465.